

# THE BOG PEOPLE



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Peter

*P. V. Glob*

# THE BOG PEOPLE

Iron-Age Man Preserved

*Translated from the Danish by*  
RUPERT BRUCE-MITFORD  
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*Menesker bevaret i 2000 År*

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*for*

VERONICA  
CATHERINE  
ANDREA  
ELIZABETH  
PRUDENCE

WENDY  
CATRIONA  
JANE  
GEORGINA  
ILEANA

PIPPIN  
SUSIE  
MARY  
MIRANDA  
ELSEBETH



*Dog var de skabt av Jord og Ild som vi,  
vi er de samma Kraefsters Atterkomster,  
vi vaagned op af alt, som er forbi.  
Paa Dødens Trae vi gror som Nuets Blomster.*

*Thøger Larsen*

Yet they were made of earth and fire as we,  
The selfsame forces set us in our mould:  
To life we woke from all that makes the past.  
We grow on Death's tree as ephemeral flowers.

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## An Answer to a Letter

‘There is a strange power in bog water which prevents decay. Bodies have been found which must have lain in bogs for more than a thousand years, but which, though admittedly somewhat shrunk and brown, are in other respects unchanged.’ So reads a Danish almanack of 1837, alluding to the discovery two years earlier of a woman’s body in Haraldskjaer Fen, near the ancient royal seat of Jelling. The finding of this well-preserved woman’s body in a bog created a sensation throughout Denmark, more particularly as scholars held that she might be the Norse Queen Gunhild, the widow of King Eric Bloodaxe, who, nine hundred years earlier, had been enticed to Denmark by King Harald with a promise of marriage, but on arrival had been ignominiously drowned in a bog instead.

Nowadays, news of such discoveries in Danish bogs travels round the world—as happened when two Iron Age men were recovered from the bogs at Tollund and Grauballe in Central Jutland some years ago. The scores of letters, telegrams and poems I received from every corner of the world, after the appearance of several articles I had written about them in foreign newspapers and journals, are concrete evidence of this. Nearly all the requests I received—and they were numerous—were for more information about the celebrated bog men, and for more pictures of them. Scholars asked for details. Children



AN ANSWER TO A LETTER

Dear young girls,

Home again from the deserts and oases of the Sheikdoms I find your enthusiastic letters on my desk. They have aroused in me the wish to tell you and many others who take an interest in our ancestors about these strange discoveries in Danish bogs. So I have written the 'long letter' in the following pages for you, for my daughter Elsebeth, who is your age, and for all who, like you, wish to know more about antiquity than they can gather from the short accounts and learned treatises that exist on the subject. But I have all too little time, so that it has taken me a long while to finish my letter. However, here it is. You have all grown older and so perhaps are now all the better able to understand what I have written about these bog people of two thousand years ago.

Yours sincerely,

P. V. Glob.

August 13th, 1964















































































































































































































































































































































































